Happy New Year!

This is my first winter in Konan, and I've been enjoying it a lot! It never snows in Los Angeles, so this winter was my first time seeing snow. My walk to school every day is beautiful because of how the snow piles up on the rice fields and the flowers. It snowed at school the other day, and the students were running outside to make snowballs. I wanted to make a snowball, too, but I taught class instead.

The second years wrote New Year's resolutions. It was really interesting seeing all the different things they wrote. Many wrote that they want to study harder, and I want to help them with their goal! Some wrote that they will do nothing because they are already perfect, which I'm not so sure about. One student wrote that they want to become a dog. I thought that they meant that they want to have a dog, but they were serious that they wanted to become a dog.

I helped teach the elementary school students when they visited the school. During class, many of them were very nervous, which I understand. Standing in front of a classroom of new faces, I was also very nervous. But, the students seemed very sweet, and I can't wait to meet them in the spring. Although many of them wrote that English was difficult, I hope that they enjoyed the lesson and that they will continue to enjoy English when they become middle school students.

The past month, class 7 has been practicing "I like ~" using drawings of food and other things. I really enjoy drawing things together with the students and seeing what they make. When I see how excited they become from what I draw, I become so happy! It makes me want to put a lot of effort into drawing things they enjoy. I hope they are more motivated to study English when they can play with items that they enjoy.

The other day, I laughed so hard that I cried during a class. One student was very earnestly trying to practice the new vocabulary, but he said the words wrong each time he tried to say it. Even though he couldn't say the words correctly the first time, it was great seeing him never lose motivation. I really enjoy that student's class.

The past months teaching at Konan Junior High School have been great, and I'm looking forward to spending the next year teaching here!